

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 30, 2006

The Honorable Stephen L. Johnson
Administrator
United States Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Johnson:

Continuing a tradition of state leadership against automobile pollution, California and 10 other States have adopted feasible and cost-effective standards to curb the emissions from new passenger vehicles that contribute to global warming. The 11 states – California, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington – account for one-third of the nation's new car market, and more States are considering joining this initiative this year.

The new standards will phase in beginning in model year 2009 and ramp up over eight years to cut global warming emissions nearly 30 percent by model year 2016. The standards can be met with technology already on the market and actually will save vehicle owners hundreds of dollars in lower fuel and maintenance costs over the lifetime of the vehicles.

The last formality in this process is California's request that you issue the waiver required under Section 209(b) of the Clean Air Act. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has granted California's waiver requests more than 40 times over the past three decades. We respectfully urge you to grant this latest waiver without delay.

The Clean Air Act expressly recognizes California's right to set its own vehicle emission standards, and the right of other states to adopt those standards. California has been the nation's leader in controlling vehicle air pollution for more than 35 years, and many of our States have adopted the same standards for decades. The States' time-honored right to adopt and enforce these standards is essential for protecting their citizens from dangerous air pollution.

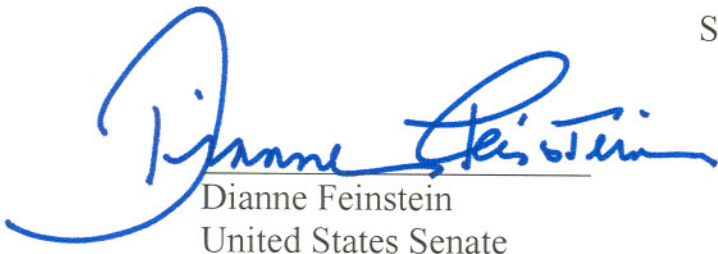
California's right to pioneer new vehicle emission standards is one that EPA may interfere with only in very exceptional circumstances – only if EPA determines that waiver opponents meet a heavy burden of proving that the State has not properly determined that its standards are needed and feasible. EPA has no grounds for such interference now.

California, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington have shown that global warming threatens the health, property, and natural environment of their citizens in compelling and extraordinary ways. These emission standards are based on the most thorough technological and economic analysis. The standards are achievable using technologies that are already incorporated in many vehicle models. Indeed, they will be even easier to achieve than expected due to rapidly rising sales of hybrids. And vehicle owners will save hundreds of dollars – even more than was anticipated given the increase in the price of gasoline over the past year.

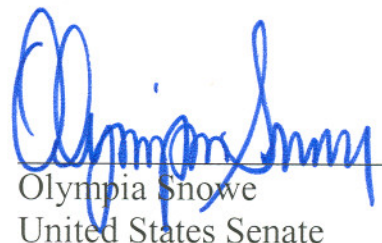
In the face of federal inaction on global warming, California, Maine and the other States have stepped forward to begin reducing the pollution that causes global warming. We are concerned that you may be preparing to argue that the States lack authority to do so. Rather than attempting to thwart such state efforts, the federal government should encourage states to develop innovative solutions to serious public health and environmental problems.

In short, the States are leading. We trust that EPA will not get in the way.

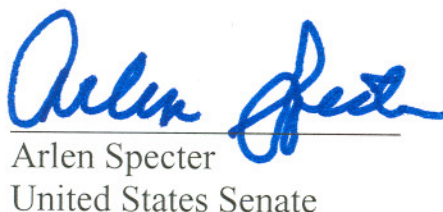
Sincerely,



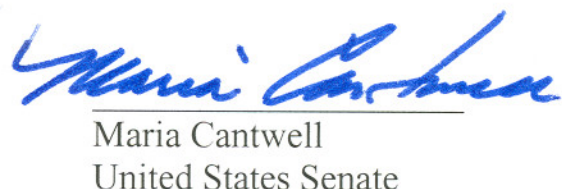
Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate



Olympia Snowe
United States Senate



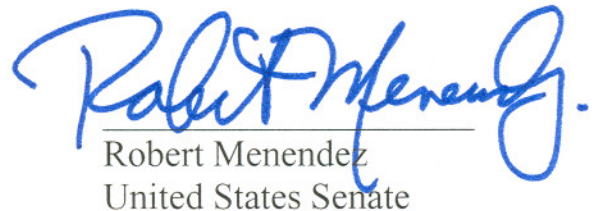
Arlen Specter
United States Senate



Maria Cantwell
United States Senate



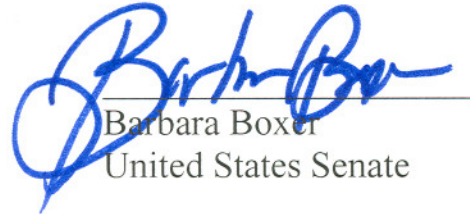
Lincoln Chafee
United States Senate



Robert Menendez
United States Senate



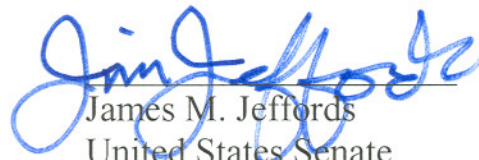
Susan Collins
United States Senate



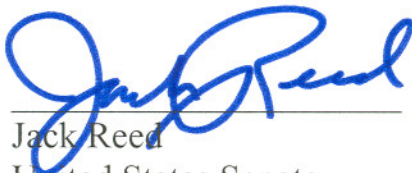
Barbara Boxer
United States Senate



John McCain
United States Senate



James M. Jeffords
United States Senate



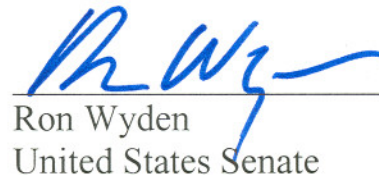
Jack Reed
United States Senate



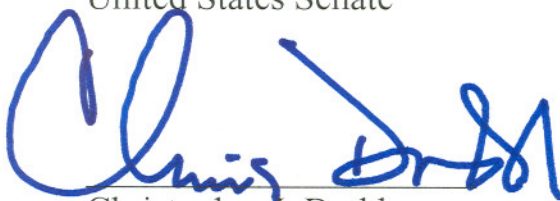
Frank Lautenberg
United States Senate



Patrick Leahy
United States Senate



Ron Wyden
United States Senate



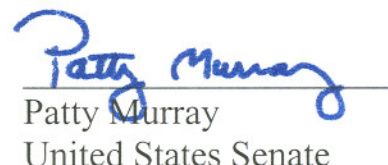
Christopher J. Dodd
United States Senate



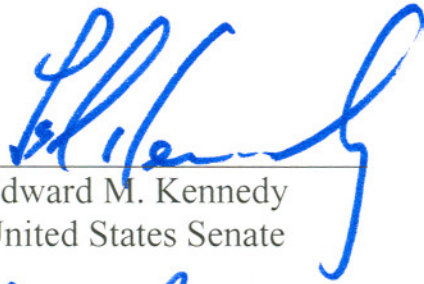
Joseph I. Lieberman
United States Senate



Paul S. Sarbanes
United States Senate



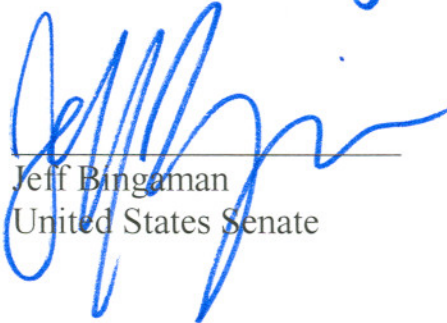
Patty Murray
United States Senate



Edward M. Kennedy
United States Senate



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senate



Jeff Bingaman
United States Senate